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State Dept. Given Photos in Security Breach

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WASHINGTON, March 6 — The State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security has taken into custody the color slides of photographs reproduced in The Foreign Service Journal showing an open copy of one of the Government's most sensitive intelligence documents.

The bureau spokesman, Frank Matthews, said the action was part of an internal investigation of what has been called a major security breach committed by a senior officer of the department.

The director of investigations for the bureau, Clark M. Dittmer, is expected to determine whether to recommend disciplinary action against the officer, Ronald I. Spiers, the Under Secretary of State for Management.

Mr. Spiers was pictured on the cover of the latest issue of The Foreign Service Journal with an open copy of the highly classified National Intelligence Daily.

That document is produced by the Central Intelligence Agency in traceable, numbered copies exclusively for the President and a small circle of officials with a security clearance designated code word, which is higher than top secret.

Mention of Publication Forbidden

So restricted is the publication that any mention of it on the telephone or even in corridors is strictly forbidden, one intelligence official said.

Developed in the early 1970's when William E. Colby was Director of Central Intelligence, the daily document is intended to brief the President every morning on crucial overnight international developments.

Words are not legible in the photographed report, but the fear is they could become so by amplification or computer enhancement.

Mr. Spiers was the subject of an article in The Foreign Service Journal, which goes chiefly to members of the Foreign Service but is available to the general public and has a circulation of 10,000.

One of only four Under Secretaries in the State Department, Mr. Spiers, a veteran Foreign Service officer, is responsible for organizing the personnel and financial resources needed to conduct foreign policy. In addition, he serves as the department's chief security officer.

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security reports through Assistant Secretary Robert E. Lamb to Mr. Spiers. Asked about the integrity of any investigation under such circumstances, the bureau spokesman, Mr. Matthews, said that Mr. Dittmar would be making an "independent" assessment.

C.I.A. Is Said to Express 'Concern'

A Congressional aide said an official of the intelligence agency had expressed the agency's "concern" directly to Mr. Spiers.

A spokeswoman for the intelligence agency, Kathy Pherson, said, "We don't talk about security matters." Mr. Spiers declined to return a telephone call.

The Foreign Service Journal is published by the American Foreign Service Association, which acts as the trade union and professional organization for the Foreign Service staff.

The association issued a statement today saying it had "voluntarily" turned over all the slides made for the article.

"The board feels this was in the national interest, as the slides may have inadvertently contained classified information," the statement said.

First Amendment Raised at First

The editor of the journal and the person who took the pictures, Stephen R. Dujack, originally told an investigator from the Bureau of Diplomatic Security that, if asked to give up the slides, he would refer the matter to legal counsel.

But he added at that time that he doubted he would accede, citing freedom of the press guaranteed under the First Amendment.

Today's statement by the Foreign Service Association, in an apparent rebuttal of Mr. Dujack, maintained that First Amendment issues were "not at stake."

The statement said, "The slides were not used as source material for the article but were merely illustrations, and there had been no effort by the Government to prevent publication or distribution of the issue."

Mr. Dujack, a private employee of the association, refused to comment.

A Republican member of the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said he was "shocked" by the security breach. He said that Mr. Spiers would go before the panel March 24 at an open hearing on legislation governing State Department functions and personnel.

"I expect he'll be pretty much raked over the coals," the Senate aide said.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Claiborne Pell, Democrat of Rhode Island, declined to comment on the affair but said through a spokesman, "I have every complete confidence in Secretary Spiers."